

Well Water Testing Rebate Information

BACKGROUND

In the region, over 40% of residents depend on groundwater for drinking water; many of these residents manage their own private well as their primary water source. Improperly constructed or poorly maintained wells can act as a direct pathway for surface contaminants such as fertilizers, petroleum products, and other contaminants to enter groundwater. To assist residents in maintaining and improving groundwater quality in local aquifers, the RDN incentivizes sampling of private domestic wells through the Well Water Testing Rebate (rebate). Visit www.rdnrebates.ca for full details.

Island Health recommends bacteria testing one to three times a year. Full chemical analysis is recommended every three to five years. Tests can be completed during the rainy season when surface water can more readily contaminate groundwater, during the dry period when groundwater levels are in seasonal decline, when an immune compromised individual is drinking well water, or after work is completed on main plumbing lines, well pump, or wellhead.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a residential landowner (on property title) with a private domestic well within the RDN (Electoral Areas A, B, C, E, F, G, H, and member municipalities Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach). Water purveyors and commercial properties are not eligible.
- Well water tests must include both chemical and bacterial analysis (Total Coliform, Escherichia coli, pH, Total Dissolved Solids, Hardness, Nitrate, Nitrite, Sulphate, Fluoride, Chloride, and elemental metals scan).
- Well water tests must be completed by a provincially approved laboratory.
- Each private domestic well is eligible for one rebate every five years.

REBATE OVERVIEW

If eligibility requirements are met, the RDN will rebate 50% (up to \$350 rebated) of the laboratory's analysis costs. To receive a rebate, submit the Pre-approval Application form. If approved, you will be issued an RDN identification code. Include the RDN ID on the laboratory form and sample bottles, submit the sample to a provincially approved laboratory. Once the lab analysis has been completed, submit a rebate Claim Form with required documentation to the RDN. Claim forms must be submitted within 90 days and within the same calendar year that the pre-approval was given.

Allow 6 weeks for processing applications and forms.

SHARING RESULTS

When you apply for a Well Water Testing Rebate you agree to share your water quality test results with the RDN, allowing Drinking Water & Watershed Protection (DWWP) program staff to view your water quality results. By sharing your results, you help to enhance the understanding of groundwater quality in our region and contribute to increasing the knowledge base of regional decision makers, supporting water quality trend analysis. Any reporting of results will be anonymous, none of your personal information will be shared.

On the pre-approval application you can choose to share your water quality test results with the Province of BC for provincial groundwater research. Only results and aquifer location will be shared.

If you have questions, contact RDN Water Services 250-390-6560 or email watermonitoring@rdn.bc.ca.

HOW THE REBATE WORKS

Rebate application and claim forms are available online at www.rdn.bc.ca/well-water-testing. Forms can be completed digitally or printed, filled out, and photocopied. Incomplete forms will not be processed. Allow six weeks for processing.

STEP 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	SUBMIT REBATE APPLICATION FORM Submit your pre-approval application form and wellhead photo(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - email watermonitoring@rdn.bc.ca - mail / drop off to Drinking Water & Watershed Protection, Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2. If approved, an RDN identification number will be issued. This ID number must accompany your sample to the lab to receive the rebate.
STEP 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be WellSmart - attend a free webinar, watch a recorded session, or learn more about how to maintain and care for your well at www.rdn.bc.ca/wellsmart. - Review the RDN Well Water Testing Rebate website for information on laboratories (under <i>Provincially approved labs for drinking water analysis</i>) and sample bottles (under <i>Where to get bottles and take your sample</i>). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Determine which lab and analysis package to select, confirm business hours and days samples are accepted, and how to get your sample to the lab within the required timeframe. ○ Pick up water sample bottles or contact the lab to have a sample package mailed to you. - Review the online water quality testing sample procedure.
STEP 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	TAKING A WATER SAMPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using sterile bottles from the lab, samples can be taken by homeowner or a professional. - Fill out the lab chain of custody/requisition form and write on the sample bottles the RDN issued ID, your name, the date, the well address, and the time you will take your sample. - Wash hands well and take care not to contaminate your sample. - If possible, remove aerator. Disinfect tap. Run cold water at full force for 2 to 5 min. - Take the sample directly from tap. Fill bottles to the fill line or the bottom of the neck. Secure lid. - Place samples in clean container, box, or cooler with ice and take directly to the lab/courier. - Sample must stay below 4 degrees Celsius and be analyzed by the lab within 24 hours of collection.
STEP 4 <input type="checkbox"/>	RECEIVING THE REBATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Select a water sample package that meets the requirements of the rebate program. - Take photos of your RDN issued ID recorded on your lab form and each of the water sample bottles. - Submit your sample package to a provincially approved lab. - Pay the lab and receive your results. - Submit a completed claim form with required documents to the RDN by email or mail. - If you have met the program requirements, a cheque for half the cost of the lab analysis (to a maximum of \$350 rebated) will be mailed to the address on your application form.
Visit www.rdnrebates.ca for a full list of rebates offered by the RDN	